

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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TAGS: ENRG, AU, US, IEA

SUBJ: US ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT (EPCA)

REF: 75 STATE 305385, STATE 000397

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS CALLED ON WILHELM FRANK, GAO
ENERGY POLICY CHIEF IN TRADE AMINISTRY, AND HIS ASSISTANT
RUDOLF HLADIK TO GO OVER HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENTLY ENACTED

ENERGY BILL. AUSTRIANS EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN BILL,
AGAIN ASKED FOR FULL TEXT (SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED), AND
RAISED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS.

2. FRANK SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT BILL GAVE USG
AUTHORITY TO BE BOUND BY IEP, BUT WANTED TO KNOW HOW IT
WOULD RELATE TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS TO BE CARRIED OUT
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THAT PROGRAM. HE ADDED
THAT SINCE GOA WAS STILL CONSIDERING
ITS OWN ENERGY BILL, THEY WERE INTERESTED IN SEEING
LEGISLATIVE BASIS FOR US PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS ASPECTS
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OF THE IEP. EMBASSY OFFICERS EXPLAINED THAT IN SOME CASES

--E.G. PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH RULES FOR OIL ALLOCATION AND AUTHORITY TO COLLECT AND TRANSMIT IEP-REQUIRED DATA TO THE IEA-- NO FURTHER LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY IS NECESSARY. IN OTHER CASES-- E.G. FINANCING OF STRATEGIC OIL RESERVES, SPECIFIC ENERGY RESEARCH PROJECTS, AND MANDATORY CONSERVATION PLANS-- ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION OR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATION PLANS WILL BE NEEDED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING NOTIFIED OF PASSAGE OF ANY IEP-RELATED MEASURE SUCH AS PENDING NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE LEGISLATION.

3. AUSTRIANS ALSO REQUESTED: (A) COPIES OF RULES ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY ABLING AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS PRESCIBED UNDER TITLE III S EPCA; (B) ANY AVAILABLE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL DETAILS REGARDING EARLY AND LONG-TERM STORAGE PROGRAMS UNDER TITLE I; AND (C) A COPY OF US PUBLIC LAW 93-577, WHICH THEY SAID DEALS WITH QUOTE NT ENERGY ANALYSIS UNQUOTE.

4. AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS INDICATED SATISFACTION THAT EPCA PROVIDED LEGAL BASIS FOR INDUSTRY COOPERTION WITH IEA AND AUTHORITY FOR SUBMISSION OF OIL MARKET DATA TO IEA. THEY EXPRESSED HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT APPLICATION OF US ANTI-TRUST LAWS WOULD NOT PREVENT US FROM PROVIDING SUFFICIENT, AND WHEN NECESSARY, DISAGGREGATED DATA FOR THE EFFECTIVE WORKING OF THE IEP.

5. FINALLY, FRANK ASKED EMBASSY OFFICERS WHETHER IN USG VIEW A NIMUM AFEGUARD PRICE (MSP) OF \$7.00 PER BARREL WAS SUFFICIENTLY HIGH. EMBASSY OFFICERS REPLIED THAT \$7.00 FIGURE WAS A COMPROMISE WITH SOME COUNTRIES FAVORING HIGHER AND OTHERS LOWER FIGURES. WHILE A \$7.00 FIGURE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO COVER PRODUCTION COSTS FROM THE MOST EXPENSIVE ENERGY SOURCES, IT WAS HGH ENOUGH, IN OUR VIEW, TO INDICATE THE SERIOUS INTENT OF CONSUMER COUNTRIES TO REDUCE THEIR DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL. BUCHANAN

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